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Mr Pickering Report

January 20. 1796.

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LETTER AND REPORTS

OF THE

SECRETARY AT WAR,

TO THE

COMMITTEE

APPOINTED TO ENQUIRE INTO THE

NAVAL EQUIPMENT OF THE *UNITED STATES.*

Published by the order of the House of Representatives, the 2d March, 1796.

WAR OFFICE, January 20, 1796.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to send herewith, for the information of the committee to whom was committed the report on the frigates, the best returns of materials provided, and yet wanting, that can be formed, together with an account of the monies expended, and the sum necessary to complete their construction and equipment, exclusively of men and provisions—this sum being estimated at 453,272 dollars.

I am, very respectfully,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

TIMOTHY PICKERING.

Honourable JOSIAH PARKER, Esq.

No. I.

REPORT, &c. *agreeable to a requeſt of a Committee of the Houſe of Repreſentatives of the United States, appointed to enquire into the State of the Naval Equipment*, viz.

TO the firſt enquiry: I am of opinion that, on the moſt minute calculation that I can poſſibly make, or procure, from a general conſultation of the different perſons concerned in the building and equipment of the frigates; that their actual coſt when completed, with ordnance and ordnance ſtores, including powder, &c. &c. (but without being proviſioned or manned) will be 120 dollars per ton. That the four 44 gun ſhips will tonnage, according to the new mode of meaſurement adopted by the carpenters of this port, 6852 tons, and that the two ſhips of 36 guns will tonnage 2666 tons.

Conſequently the ſix frigates will meaſure 9518 tons, which at the rate of 120 dollars aforeſaid, will coſt - -	*Dols.*	1,142,160.
Deduct appropriation made by a former act of Congreſs for building the ſaid frigates, &c. excluſive of 80,000 dollars, appropriated for gallies, &c. - -		688,888.
Further proviſion neceſſary to complete the ſix frigates for ſea, according to above calculation, manning and proviſions excepted, - - -		453,272.

In the accompanying paper, No. 2, is an account of all monies diſburſed, or paid to the different agents and purveyor of ſupplies, including the ſum of dols. remitted to our miniſter in England, for the purpoſe of purchaſing copper and ſundry other materials; and will be accounted for by them reſpectively.

No. 3 will ſhew the materials on hand; and No. 4 ſuch as are ſtill wanting in the yards and ſtores; many of which are procured and will be ſpeedily received.

No. 5 is an eſtimate of the farther ſum ſuppoſed to be neceſſary to completely equip one 44 and one 36 gun frigate, if the others ſhould be diſcontinued.

From the preſent arrangements that are made, and apparent proſpect, it is expected that the ſix frigates may be built, launched, and completely equipt in the courſe of the preſent year; and that one 44 and one 36 may be completed with great eaſe by the month of November next at fartheſt.

The foregoing is at the requeſt of the Secretary of War, made out and ſubmitted for his inſpection and reviſion, by his very humble ſervants,

(Signed)
TENCH FRANCIS, *Purveyor.*
THOMAS TRUXTUN.
JOSHUA HUMPHREYS, *Navy Conſtructor.*
JOSIAH FOX, *Navy Conſtructor.*

PHILADELPHIA, } *13th January*, 1796. }

No. II.

Statement of the Application of Monies Appropriated for the Use of the Naval Department.

Date.	*No. of Warrant.*	*To whom paid.*	*For what purpose advanced.*	*Dols. cts.*
1794.				
July 22	3899	Gurney & Smith	Naval agents, Philadelphia	5,000.
26	3915	Samuel Meredith	Treasurer—Paymast. War Dep.	5,000.
Aug. 14	3954	John Blagge	Naval agent at New-York	5,000.
—	3955	Samuel and Jo. Sterett	Naval agents at Baltimore	5,000.
—	3956	Henry Jackson	Naval agent at Boston	5,000.
Sept. 30	4089	William Pennock	Naval agent at Norfolk	4,000.
—	4091	Nicholas Fish	Agent for purchasing supplies	3,300.
—	4095	John Habersham	Agent for purchasing materials for the Naval Department	500.
Oct. 14	4154	Jacob Sheafe	Naval agent at Portsmouth	5,000.
Nov. 26	4280	S. & J. Sterett	- -	1,000.
28	4290	Jed. Huntingdon	Agent for purchasing supplies	3,300.
Dec. 15	4322	Gurney & Smith	- -	5,100.
—	4324	S. & J. Sterett	- -	2,208. 97
26	4329	Ditto	- -	5,000.
31	4345	Henry Jackson	- -	5,000.
—	4359	Daniel Stevens	Agent for purchasing materials	500.
—	4361	William Pennock	- -	1,000.
—	4372	John Habersham	- -	500.
1795.				
Jan. 21	4474	John Blagge	- -	3,000.
23	4476	Samuel Meredith	On account of bills of exchange purchased to be remitted to Thomas Pinckney, Esq. towards paying for certain articles for the frigates	28,800.
26	4481	Henry Jackson	- -	3,000.
30	4490	Elisha Sagourney	Agent for John T. Morgan, agent for procuring timber on account of his pay	600.
31	4492	Jacob Sheafe	- -	3,000.
Feb. 16	4544	Samuel Breck	Agent for the proprietors of the sail cloth manufactory at Boston	12,000.
Mar. 24	4676	Tench Francis	Purveyor of public supplies	10,000.
27	4689	Henry Jackson	- -	4,000.
31	4703	Gurney & Smith	- -	8,000.
—	4710	John Habersham	- -	1,000.
—	4715	S. &. J. Sterett	- -	1,500.
—	4716	William Pennock	- -	3,690.
April 7	4749	Tench Francis	- -	5,000.
			Carried forward, -	144,998. 97

Date.	No. of Warrant.	To whom paid.	For what purpose advanced.	Dols. cts.
1795.			*Amount brought forward,*	144,998. 97
Apr. 29	4827	Samuel Breck		5,000.
—	4832	John Blagge		4,000.
May 2	4845	William Pennock		5,000.
—	4846	Ditto		1,000.
—	4847	John Haberſham		1,500.
5	4856	Gurney & Smith		5,000.
—	4857	S. & J. Sterett		3,000.
13	4876	Henry Jackſon		8,000.
June 2	4936	Ditto		5,000.
	4937	S. & J. Sterett		3,000.
	4938	Jacob Sheafe		8,000.
	4939	Jed. Huntington		2,000.
	4942	Gurney and Smith		4,000.
18	4978	Tench Francis		5,000.
23	4990	Samuel Meredith	On account of bills of exchange remitted to Mr. Pinckney	72,000.
24	4995	S. &. J. Sterett		6,000.
30	5028	John Blagge		7,000.
—	5042	John Haberſham		2,000.
Aug. 25	5198	William Pennock		8,000.
—	5199	Henry Jackſon		11,000.
—	5200	Jacob Sheafe		10,000.
—	5201	S. & J. Sterett		4,000.
—	5202	Jed. Huntington		4,000.
—	5203	Ditto		3,000.
Sept. 18	5283	Ditto		450.
24	5293	Tench Francis		10,000.
30	5309	Henry Jackſon		6,000.
—	5310	S. & J. Sterett		3,000.
—	5311	John Blagge		4,200.
—	5312	Solomon Townſend	On account of a contract for ſupplying five anchors	1,200.
—	5327	John Haberſham		2,500.
—	5328	Ditto		500.
—	5329	Ditto		5,000.
Oct. 9	5383	Samuel Meredith	On account of bills of exchange remitted to W. Allen Deas, Eſq. chargé des affaires at London	11,786. 66
15	5394	S. & J. Sterett		3,000.
Nov. 9	5467	Samuel Breck		3,500.
14	5482	S. & J. Sterett		8,000.
17	5490	Tench Francis		8,000.
20	5497	S. & J. Sterett		8,920. 67
21	5498	Tench Francis		17,000.
25	5503	Ditto		5,000.
Dec. 4	5528	Ditto		6,000.
11	5558	Ditto		2,400.
15	5568	Samuel Meredith		1,000.
21	5573	Gurney & Smith	Balance of their account as agents	1,514. 70
22	5579	Samuel Meredith		16,500.
30	5597	S. & J. Sterett		2,000.
			TOTAL——*Dols.*	458,971.

The appropriations for the Naval Department, exclusive of 80,000 dollars, granted for gallies, amount to - - -	688,888.	82
The expenditures to the 31st of December, 1795, - -	458,971.	
Balance unexpended 1st January, 1796, - *Dols.*	229,917	82

Note. There has been no expenditure since the 1st January, 1796.

Summary of the foregoing Statement.

		Dols.	*cts.*
Advanced to	Jacob Sheafe, naval agent, Portsmouth, -	26,000.	
——	Henry Jackson, ditto, Boston, - -	47,000.	
——	John Blagge, ditto, New-York, - -	23,200.	
——	Gurney & Smith, ditto, Philadelphia, - -	28,614.	70
——	S. & J. Sterett, ditto, Baltimore, - -	55,629.	64
——	William Pennock, ditto, Norfolk, - -	22,690.	
——	Samuel Meredith, paymaster to the war department,	22,500.	
——	Tench Francis, purveyor of public supplies, -	68,400.	
——	Jed. Huntington, agent for procuring supplies, -	12,750.	
——	Daniel Stevens, ditto, - -	500.	
——	Nicholas Fish, ditto, - -	3,300.	
——	John Habersham, ditto, - -	13,500.	
——	John T. Morgan, agent for procuring timber, -	600.	
——	Samuel Breck, agent for the proprietors of the sail cloth manufactory at Boston, - -	20,500.	
——	Solomon Townsend, on account of a contract for supplying five anchors, - - -	1,200.	
Remitted to	Mr. Pinckney, minister plenipotentiary of the United States at London, - -	100,800.	
——	William Allen Deas, chargé des affaires of the United States at London, - - -	11,786.	66
	Dols.	458,971.	

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,

REGISTER'S OFFICE,

9th January, 1796.

JOSEPH NOURSE, Register.

Statement of Sundry Remittances made to the under-mentioned Agents for the Naval Department, which have not yet been covered by Warrants.

1795.				
Decem.	31.	John Blagge, for frigate at New-York,	*Dols.*	3,000.
—	—	S. & J. Sterett, ditto, Baltimore,		2,000.
—	—	John Haberſham, for procuring materials,		2,000.
—	—	Ditto, ditto,		4,000.
—	—	S. & J. Sterett, for frigate at Baltimore,		2,000.
			Dols.	13,000.

Treasury Department,
January 11, 1795.

L. WOOD, *P. Clk.*

A Statement of the Quantity of Materials moſt eſſential for building the FRIGATES for the ſervice of the United States.

The Quantity of each article actually delivered into the NAVY YARDS, and what is yet deficient.

	Number of pieces of Live Oak in the frame.	Number of Live Oak knees.	Number of pieces of Cedar in the frame.	Number of pieces of Live Oak for inside.	Number of gun deck beams.	Number of lower deck beams.	Number of upper deck beams.	Number of orlop deck beams.	Pieces of ſeven inch white oak plank.	Pieces of ſix inch white oak plank.	Pieces of five and a half inch white oak plank.	Pieces of five inch white oak plank.	Pieces of four and a half inch white oak plank.	Pieces of four inch white oak plank.	Pieces of three and a half inch white oak plank.	Feet of four inch white oak plank.	Feet of three and a half inch white oak plank.	Feet of three inch white oak plank.	Feet of four inch pitch pine plank.	Feet of three and a half inch pitch pine plank.	Feet of three inch pitch pine plank.	Feet of two inch common pine plank.	Feet of carlings.	Feet of ledges.	Pieces for keel.	Pieces for keelſons.	Number of locuſt Trennails.	Pounds of copper of various ſorts, for ſecuring and ſheathing the bottom.	Pounds of iron of various ſorts.	Pounds of nails of various ſorts.	
Quantity of materials required for each Frigate of 44 guns.	724	528	150	81	34	33	35	29	30	74	65	91	47	20	6	25,000	2,500	7,500	7,000	10,000	7,000	6,000	2,000	9,000	3 and 4	4 and 5	50,000		no particular quantity.		
Frigate of Forty four Guns, building at PHILADELPHIA.																															There is exclusive of the 1529 lb. of copper delivered into the Navy yard 57,670 lb. of copper in the public ſtores, which is thought ſufficient to complete the ſhip. Moſt of the other materials not delivered into the yard are procured and are daily arriving.
Materials actually delivered into the Navy Yard.	554	94	15	12				21	23	14	37	11	17		12	17,759		5193	4067	8326	5813	6000			3	3		1529 lb.	2758	283	
Materials yet wanting to compleat the requiſitions.	170	434	135	69	34	33	35	8	7	60	28	80	30	20		7,241	2500	2317	2933	1674	1187		2000	9000			50,000				
Frigate of Forty four Guns, building at NEW YORK.																															There is a large quantity of white oak plank that has been ſawed in the yard excluſive of the 30,910 feet, of the preciſe quantity of which no returns have been made, the timber from which it was ſawed having been already accounted for, under white oak timber.
Materials actually delivered into the Navy Yard.	169	8			76,162 feet of white oak timber for various purpoſes, not ſpecified.				2	5		7	30,910 feet of white oak plank, of various ſizes, not ſpecified.			3704		924	43,917 feet of pine plank for the decks, ſizes not ſpecified.						4		47492	86,651		4052	
Materials yet wanting to complete the requiſitions.	555	520	150	81	ſome part of which are for the beams.				28	69	65	84				21296	2500	6576					2000	9000		4 or 5	2508				
Frigate of Forty four Guns, building at BOSTON.																															The beams are all cut, and many of them delivered, the remainder are expected to be delivered in a ſhort time, a veſſel laden with live oak timber bound to Baltimore, having met with unfavorable weather, was under the neceſſity of going to Boſton, and the cargo was landed there for the uſe of the frigate.
Materials actually delivered into the Navy Yard.	551 among which are ſeveral knees.								26	14,934 feet of white oak plank of various ſizes, not ſpecified in the returns.									16,487 feet of pine plank, ſizes not ſpecified.		8938			4			60 caſes of copper ſheets. 14 caſks of nails.	lb.		
Materials yet wanting to complete the requiſitions.	the number not inſerted.	150	81	34	33	35	29		4														2000	9000		4 or 5	50,000	592 bolts & 8 boxes of compoſition bolts.			
Frigate of forty four Guns, building at NORFOLK.																															Nearly the whole of the white oak plank is cut and is expected at the yard as ſoon as the weather will permit tranſporting it with ſafety down James River to Norfolk.
Materials actually delivered into the Navy Yard.	435	33		24	35	34	48,052 feet of white oak timber for various purpoſes, ſome part of which							4		2000									3	5		53381	40,149 lb. iron & 120 bars not weighed.		3023	
Materials yet wanting to complete the requiſitions.	289	495	150	57			is appropriated for carlings, ledges, &c.							16	6	23000	2500	7,500	7,000	10,000	7,000	6,000	2,000	9,000			50,000				
Frigate of thirty ſix Guns, building at BALTIMORE.																															A large quantity of plank is ſawed in the yard, but of the preciſe quantity no returns have been made: the beams are cut out and are put into ſea water to ſeaſon. The remainder of the copper neceſſary for ſecuring and ſheathing the veſſel is in the public ſtores.
Quantity of materials required for each frigate of 36 guns.	702	506	148	81	31	29	34	25																							
Materials actually delivered into the Navy Yard.	369	221 l. o. & 142 w. o.	knees do.	6	287 pieces of white oak timber for various purpoſes, among which are included,				13		13					18,378		8,103			6061				3		17582	1381	21854	2539	
Materials yet wanting to complete the requiſitions.	333	342	148	75	the beams, bitts, for the cables, &c.				61	65	78	47	20	6	6,622	2,500		7,000	10,000	939	6,000	2,000	9,000		4 or 5	32,418				
Frigate of thirty ſix Guns, building at PORTSMOUTH, (N. H.)																															A conſiderable quantity of plank has been ſawed in the yard, the particular quantity has not been tranſmitted by the clerk, the remainder of the copper is lodged in the public ſtores.
Materials actually delivered into the Navy Yard.	453 among which are ſeveral knees.				390 pieces of white oak timber for various purpoſes, among which are included,				26	17		30				8024 9895 f. of plank	6327	1014 not ſpecified.	16373	410 pieces of pine plank not ſpecified in ſizes.					4			356	1851	895	
Materials yet wanting to complete the requiſitions.	the number not inſerted.		148	81	the beams, bitts, for the cables, &c.				4	57	65	61	47	20	6	7081		6486					2,000	9,000		4 or 5	50,000				

RPJCE

No. V.

ONE frigate of 44 guns, being 1713 tons, and one of 36 guns, 1333 tons, making 3046 tons, at 120 dollars per ton, will coſt, excluſive of proviſions and men, as aforeſaid, dols. 365,520.—What proportion of this ſum is already expended and contracts made for, cannot immediately be well aſcertained, as many of the materials have been purchaſed in common with thoſe for the other frigates, in Europe; accounts of which have not as yet been received, and the ſame difficulty ariſes with reſpect to the live oak being engaged for the ſhips generally; but it is judged that the balance of monies already appropriated for the naval equipment, will be ſufficient to complete the two ſhips above mentioned, ſhould the other four be ſuſpended; but if the ſix frigates are carried on in the manner contemplated, the farther ſum of dols. 453,272, as ſtated in No. 1, will be neceſſary to carry the whole buſineſs into full effect.

WAR OFFICE, *January* 20, 1796.

TIMOTHY PICKERING.

Jan. 26. 1796.

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